



LISFLOOD-FP

User manual

Code release 6.0.4

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Executive summary

This document is the user manual for the shareware implementation of the LISFLOOD-FP raster flood inundation model version 5.9.5. The code provides a general tool for simulating fluvial or coastal flood spreading, with output consisting of raster maps of values for a number of flood water parameters such as depth, water surface elevation, velocity etc. in each grid square at each time step. In the case of fluvial flooding it also outputs predicted stage and discharge hydrographs at the outlet of the reach and other specified locations. For fluvial situations, this version of LISFLOOD-FP solves the kinematic or diffusive approximations to the one-dimensional St. Venant equations to simulate the passage of a flood wave along a channel reach. Once bankfull depth is exceeded, water moves from the channel to adjacent floodplains sections where two dimensional flood spreading is simulated using a storage cell concept applied over a raster grid. There are three options for calculation of water flow between cells in the raster grid which vary in their physical complexity. In the simplest case the model assumes that flood spreading over low-lying topography is a function of gravity and topography, whilst the most complex case uses the full shallow water equation. Channels can also be represented as features within the 2D grid structure using a subgrid version of the model. This calculates the combined flow of water within each cell, contained both within any section of channel located in that cell and across the adjacent floodplain, using an approximation to the one-dimensional St. Venant equation without advection. The model is designed to take advantage of recent developments in the remote sensing of topography such as airborne laser altimetry or airborne Synthetic Aperture Radar interferometry which are now beginning to yield dense and accurate digital elevation models over wide areas.

Major Version History

Ver	Date	Details
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5.9	Aug 05 2013	Support for LatLong added (Chris Sampson)
5.8	Feb 15 2013	Regression model wetted perimeter added, bug fix for SGC wider than cell (Jeff Neal)
5.7	Sep 26 2012	Fully tested and bug fixed bridge implementation in subgrid (Mark Trigg)
5.6	Aug 06 2012	Alternative sub-grid channel geometries added (Jeff Neal)
5.5	Jun 27 2012	2D version of friction (x-y coupled) implemented. Old (1D) version still available using the "1Dfriction" keyword in the .par file (Gustavo A.M. de Almeida)
5.4	Mar 21 2012	Rainfall routing added to allow rainfall to be simulated over complex terrain (Chris Sampson)
5.3	Sep 26 2011	q-centered numerical scheme implemented and tested for the solution of the simplified St. Venant equation. (Gustavo A.M. de Almeida)
5.2	Jul 22 2011	Weir flows implemented in sub-grid channel and floodplain models (Jeff Neal)
5.1	May 31 2011	Initial sub-grid channel implementation
5.0	Jan 21 2011	Fully functional Roe solver (Jeff Neal and Ignacio Villanueva) and multiple river capability (Chris Sampson) added
4.4	Feb 01 2010	Tested version of Roe solver. 2D only, point source closed boundary only added (Jeff Neal and Ignacio Villanueva)
4.3	Sep 04 2009	Dynamic & diffusive steady state 1D solution added & tested (Tim Fewtrell)
4.1	Nov 10 2008	TRENT solver added but not tested. Integrated version tested (Jeff Neal and Ignacio Villanueva)
3.6	Jul 31 2008	Decouple river channel timestep from floodplain timestep (Mark Trigg)
3.5	Jun 13 2008	OpenMP version implemented and tested on Buscot (Jeff Neal)
3.4	Apr 21 2008	Double precision version (Mark Trigg)
3.3	Jan 11 2008	Diffusive channel solver & Bug fixed branching channels (Mark Trigg)
3.1	Oct 08 2007	Fully tested and bug fixed modular code (Mark Trigg)
3.0	May 25 2006	Modularised the code and added porosity scaling algorithm (Tim Fewtrell)
2.7	Feb 25 2005	Evaporation and Infiltration added (Matt Wilson)
2.6	Dec 20 2004	Added more output file and command line options (Matt Wilson)
2.5	Nov 25 2004	Checkpointing functionality added (Matt Wilson)
2.0	Jun 08 2004	Adaptive timestep implemented (Neil Hunter)
1.0	2003	First public release version (Matt Horritt)
0.9	2003	Increased output file and command line options (Matt Wilson)
0.8	2001	Prototype C++ version created (Matt Horritt)
0.5	2001	Original version created by Paul Bates and Ad De Roo

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

This document describes the flood inundation model LISFLOOD-FP. LISFLOOD-FP is a raster-based flood inundation model designed for research purposes by the University of Bristol. The model includes a number of numerical schemes (solvers) that simulate the propagation of flood waves along channels and across floodplains using simplifications of the shallow water equations. The choice of numerical scheme will depend on the characteristics of the system to be modelled, requirements on time of execution and the type of data available. The momentum and continuity equations for the 1D full shallow water equations are given below (equations (1) and (2) respectively):

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial Q_x}{\partial t}}_{\text{local acceleration}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{Q_x^2}{A} \right)}_{\text{convective acceleration}} + \underbrace{gA \frac{\partial(h+z)}{\partial x}}_{\text{water slope}} + \underbrace{\frac{gn^2 Q_x^2}{R^{4/3} A}}_{\text{friction slope}} = 0, \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q_x}{\partial x} = 0, \quad (2)$$

where Q_x is volumetric flow rate in the x Cartesian direction, A the cross sectional area of flow, h the water depth, z the bed elevation, g gravity, n the Manning's coefficient of friction, R the hydraulic radius, t time and x the distance in the x Cartesian direction. The tables below summarise the key inclusions/exclusions of the solvers available for both floodplain and channel flow. The solvers are described qualitatively in the following sections. However, it is highly recommended that users read the references provided in Table 1 and Table 2 which provide a thorough technical description of the solvers including their governing equations and various validation test cases.

Table 1 Solvers available for calculating floodplain flow

Solver	Dimensions	Shallow water terms included	Shallow water terms assumed negligible	Time step	Further technical details
Routing	1D on 2D grid	User specified velocity and bed slope direction only	All	Adaptive	Sampson et al., 2012
Flow-limited	1D on 2D grid	Friction and water slopes	Local and convective acceleration	Fixed	Bates and De Roo, 2000
Adaptive	1D on 2D grid	As above	As above	Adaptive	Hunter et al., 2005
Acceleration	1D on 2D grid, friction terms in 2D	Friction and water slopes, local acceleration	Convective acceleration	Adaptive	Bates et al., 2010; De Almeida et al., 2012
Roe	2D	All terms	None	Adaptive	Neal et al., 2012b;

Table 2 Solvers available for calculating channel flow

Solver	Dimensions	Shallow water terms included	Shallow water terms assumed negligible	Time step	Further technical details
Kinematic	1D	Friction slope and water slope including bed gradient (dz/dx) only	Local and convective acceleration, free surface gradient (dh/dx)	Linked to 2D solver used or fixed	Bates and De Roo, 2000
Diffusive	1D	Friction slope and water slope including bed and	Local and convective acceleration	As above	Trigg et al., 2009

		free surface gradients ($d[z+h]/dx$)			
Sub-grid channel	1D	Friction and water slopes, local acceleration	Convective acceleration	Adaptive	Neal et al. 2012a

1.2 Floodplain flow solvers

The simplest method employed to move water between cells is via the “**routing**” solver. If implemented it is applied only to cells containing either very shallow water (<1 mm as default or user defined) or where water slopes are very high (>1 in 10 or user defined). It replaces the shallow water equations in cells with water depths below or water slopes above a user defined threshold. Water flows with a fixed flow velocity from the specified cell into whichever neighbouring cell has the lowest elevation (assuming it is lower than the current cell) as determined by an pre-calculated flow direction map that is generated automatically. This solver has the effect of reducing model runtime and allowing water to flow over terrain discontinuities (such as off building roofs) without destabilising the solution. For deeper, low gradient flows the acceleration model scheme is used for the flow calculation.

The least complex solver based on the shallow water equations is referred to as the “**flow limited**” model. This uses an approximation of the diffusion wave equations based on the Manning’s equation. It calculates flow between cells during a time step as a function of the free surface and bed gradients (the water slope) and the friction slope. Both local and convective acceleration terms are assumed negligible. This solver employs a user defined time step which is of fixed duration for the whole simulation. However, unless this time step is very small it may be long enough for all the water to drain from one cell to the next over a single time step, leading to flow in the opposite direction during the next time step and model instability. To overcome this problem a “flow limiter” was introduced setting a limit on the volume of water allowed to flow between cells during a single time step, as a function of flow depth, grid size and time step. This fixed time step, flux-limited scheme is rarely used due to its poor accuracy.

The “**adaptive**” model is a one-dimensional approximation of a diffusion wave based on uniform flow formula, which is decoupled in x and y directions to allow simulation of 2D flows. It differs from the flow limited solver by having a time step which varies in duration throughout the simulation rather than one with a fixed duration. This overcomes the problem of cells emptying during a time step without the need of a flow limiter, however the stable time step scales with $(1/\Delta x)^2$, where Δx is the cell size, and can lead to a large increase in computation time at finer grid resolutions. This solver is rarely used for high resolution simulation.

The “**acceleration**” model is a simplified form of the shallow water equations, where only the convective acceleration term is assumed negligible. Flows between cells are calculated as a function of the friction and water slopes, and local water acceleration. The method is first-order in space and explicit in time, but uses a semi-implicit treatment for the friction term to aid stability. Like the adaptive solver, the time step used by the acceleration solver varies throughout the simulation. In this case it varies according to the Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy condition and is related to the cell size and water depth. The stable time step scales with $1/\Delta t$, and therefore even though it is more complex than the adaptive formulation it can significantly decrease computation time compared with the adaptive solver.

Finally, the “**Roe**” solver includes all of the terms in the full shallow water equations. The method is based on the Godunov approach and uses an approximate Riemann solver by Roe based on the TRENT model presented in Villanueva and Wright (2006). The explicit discretisation is first-order in space on a raster grid. It solves the full shallow water equations with a shock capturing scheme. LISFLOOD-Roe uses a point-wise friction based on the Manning’s equation, while the domain boundary/internal boundary (wall) uses the ghost cell approach. The stability of this approach is approximated by the CFL condition for shallow water models. Note: this solver has thus far only been tested on a limited number of scenarios and may not be as robust as the other more commonly used solvers.

1.3 Channel flow solvers

The most simple of the channel flow models is a 1D kinematic wave approximation of the shallow water equations, which assumes all terms except the friction and bed gradient are negligible (“**kinematic**” solver). The bed gradient is a simplification of the water slope term which takes into account the effect of changes in bed height with distance, but not changes in the water free surface height. In contrast, the “**diffusive**” solver uses the 1D diffusive wave equation which includes the water slope term and thus is able to predict backwater effects. Using the 1D channel solvers, once channel water depth reaches bankfull height, water is routed onto adjacent floodplain cells to be distributed as per the chosen floodplain solver. Note: there is no transfer of momentum between the channel and floodplain, only mass.

The most recently developed method for representing rivers is as **sub-grid** channels, embedded with the 2D domain. Flow between channel segments is calculated based on the friction and water slopes, and local water acceleration (i.e. using the ‘acceleration’ model equations). Only convective acceleration is assumed negligible. For any cell containing a sub-grid channel segment, the solver calculates the combined flow of water within the cell, contained both within the channel located in that cell and across the adjacent floodplain. The model is designed to operate over large data sparse areas where limited channel section data are available.

1.4 Model assumptions and key limitations

- The code is limited to situations where there is sufficient information to accurately characterise the model boundary conditions, specifically mass flux with time at all inflow points. In addition, for fluvial flows at least some basic information on channel geometry must also be available.
- The model uses standard SI units for length (metres), time (seconds), flux (volume per time in m^3s^{-1}) etc.
- The solvers assume flow to be gradually varied (the routing solver is the exception for this and can be used for cases of very shallow flow over steep gradients or discontinuities, the Roe solver may also handle flows that vary rapidly in time).

1.4.1 Channel flow solvers

- The 1D kinematic and diffusive solvers assume that the in-channel flow component can be represented using a kinematic or diffusive 1D wave equation with the channel geometry simplified to a rectangle (1D kinematic and diffusive solvers only).
- The 1D kinematic and diffusive solvers assume the channel to be wide and shallow, so the wetted perimeter is approximated by the channel width such that lateral friction is neglected.

1.4.2 Floodplain flow solvers

- For out-of-bank flow we assume that flow can be treated using a series of storage cells discretised as a raster grid with flow in Cartesian coordinate directions only.
- There is no exchange of momentum between 1D channel solvers and floodplain flows, only mass.
- During floodplain flow lateral friction is assumed negligible and is neglected.
- The flow limited solver underestimates wave propagation speeds and can be a poor representation of flow dynamics, and is left as an option for comparative experimentation only.
- Due to high computation cost the adaptive solver is rarely suitable for high resolution simulations.
- Wave propagation speed can be underestimated during flows in extremely low Manning’s friction conditions and/or relatively high Froude number by all solvers except Roe (see de Almeida and Bates 2013 for further details).

- Using the acceleration solver, low Manning's friction conditions can cause instabilities and a numerical diffusion term must be included.
- The routing solver assumes that flow between cells occurs at a constant speed and that flow direction is controlled purely by DEM elevation. However, it also assumes that water will not flow between cells when the water elevation in the recipient cell is greater than the DEM elevation in the source cell.
- The routing solver assumes no knowledge of roof level drainage structures
- Using the routing solver, instabilities can occur if `depththresh` is set to greater than 10 mm (though this condition shouldn't generally be required even during extreme rainfall events)

Please see also the limitations for bridge and weir flow in the appendix if you intend to use these options.

2 Files downloaded in zip archive

The model files are provided as a WinZip archive `LISFLOOD-FP.zip` which should first be unpacked into a suitable directory using the WinZip shareware programme. A total of 14 files are deployed from the archive as follows (Table 3):

Table 3 Files deployed from the LISFLOOD-FP.zip archive.

File name	Description
LISFLOOD-WIN.EXE	Pre-compiled executable for use on Windows systems (provided for 32 and 64 bit systems)
LISFLOOD_MACOSX.EXE	Pre-compiled executable for use on Mac systems (compiled on an OS X v 10.9 machine)
LISFLOOD-LIN.EXE	Pre-compiled executable for use on Linux systems
DLL FILE	Library file, Windows only. Newer systems may not need this and it is preferable not to use it. Check first whether lisflood will run without this file present in the folder
BUSCOT_D.PAR	Example input file containing model parameters and options using the diffusive 1D solver for channel flow
BUSCOT.WEIR	Example input file detailing location and nature of weir linkages between storage cells
BUSCOT_D.RIVER	Example input file detailing river location and geometry for 1D in-channel calculations using the diffusive 1D solver
BUSCOT.N.ASCII	Example raster grid of floodplain friction coefficient values in ARC ascii format
BUSCOT.DEM.ASCII	Example raster grid of floodplain elevation heights in ARC ascii format
BUSCOT.BDY	Example input file for time varying boundary conditions
BUSCOT.BCI	Example input file identifying boundary condition types
BUSCOT.OPTS	Example file giving times of satellite overpasses
FLOODVIEW.EXE	Results viewer for Windows PC systems

These are the model executables, a viewer for LISFLOOD-FP results for Windows PC systems (FloodView, see section 5.3 for further details) and all the files necessary to run a single example application, in this case for a 3 km reach of the River Thames downstream of Buscot weir.

Once deployed from the archive the files require no further installation. **Note: the model is run from the command line, not by double clicking the executable** (see section 5 for further details).

3 Data requirements, input files and file formats

3.1 Data requirements

Model data requirements are outlined in Table 4.

Table 4: Input data required by the LISFLOOD-FP model.

Data requirement	Source	Comments
Raster Digital Elevation Model.	Typically derived from air photogrammetry or airborne laser altimetry (LiDAR).	Grid resolutions of approximately 25-100m would seem appropriate for most rural floodplain applications, although smaller resolutions are preferable in urban areas. Vertical accuracy of the DEM should generally be less than ± 0.25 m. Experience has shown the coarse resolution models (250-500m) can produce good inundation extent predictions for rural floodplains if the predicted water levels are projected back on to the high resolution DEM.
Boundary conditions. These can be specified in a number of ways: <i>Inflow discharge hydrograph.</i> <i>Flow across the domain edge</i> <i>Point sources within the domain</i>	Gauging station records. Flow enters the model through the upstream channel cell forming the first location on each river channel vector in the <code>.river</code> file. Can be based on gauging station records, spot water elevation or flux measurements, tidal curve or tide/flood frequency data. Defined in the <code>.bci</code> file. Can be based on gauging station records, spot water elevation or flux measurements, tidal curve or tide/flood frequency data. Defined in the <code>.bci</code> file.	Model can be used in either steady state or dynamic modes, but flows should be accurate to ± 10 %. For dynamic simulations, temporal resolution depends on the speed of the hydrograph rise but typically at least hourly data are required. Can be used to provide a downstream boundary condition for floodplain flows or simulate tidal forcing for coastal flooding applications. Used to specify point source discharges or flow over defences within the domain. Can be used to avoid simulating flow in offshore areas in coastal applications (e.g. Bates <i>et al.</i> , 2005).
Channel geometry <i>Channel slope.</i> <i>Channel width.</i> <i>Bankfull depth.</i>	Taken from the DEM or surveyed cross sections. Taken from the DEM or surveyed cross sections. Taken from the DEM or surveyed cross sections.	Can be set individually for each point on the channel vector if necessary. Can be set individually for each point on the channel vector if necessary. Need not be the same as the model grid resolution Can be set individually for each point on the channel vector if necessary.
Channel and floodplain friction.	User defined parameters typically chosen with reference to published tables such as those given by Chow (1959) or Acrement and Schneider (1984).	N_c typically between 0.01 and 0.05 N_p typically between 0.03 and 0.15 Can be set individually for each grid cell if necessary.
Model time step <i>Fixed time step version</i>	User defined. An explicit numerical scheme is used so the stability is a function of the cell dimensions and the flow rate. As water enters the model via a single inflow cell at the head of the reach, flow rates in this	Varies between applications but typical values are in the range 2-20 s.

<i>Adaptive time step versions</i>	cell are usually the limiting factor. Optimum time step to maintain stability is calculated by the code	Calculated by the code. Optimum time step reduces quadratically with grid size with the 'adaptive' model and linearly with the 'acceleration' model. May result in substantial increase in computational cost for fine grids
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These data are then input into the model using the input files described in section 3.2.

3.2 Input file formats

Data is input to the model using seventeen file types as described below. Users should note that the file extensions are not mandatory, comments can only be used in the parameter file (.par) and all items are case sensitive.

3.2.1 *Parameter file (.par)*

This file contains the information necessary to run the simulation including file names and locations and the main model and run control parameters. The following general principles apply:

- All items in the file are case sensitive.
- Items not recognised are ignored rather than generating an error message.
- The code expects one item per line only.
- If a keyword does not appear the model uses the default value specified in the code and (usually) does not generate an error message.
- The order given below is not fixed.
- To comment out a line place a # in the first character space.

The following tables list keywords that are specified in the parameter file. These define parameter values, tell the model to read in specified files, turn model options on and off or tell the model to output specific files. Where a keyword should be followed by further information input by the user this is indicated in the first column of the table. Keywords have been separated into those which are most commonly used (Table 5), those which specify which solver should be used (Table 6), those which relate to river and other water inputs (Table 7 and Table 8 respectively), those relating to starting conditions (Table 9), additional less commonly used options and parameters (Table 10) and output files (Table 11).

Table 5 Basic and commonly used parameters, setting and input files

Item name input	Description	Value in the Buscot weir test case (Diffusive case)	Applicable model solver
DEMfile filename	Digital Elevation Model file name	No default, Buscot.dem.ascii	All solvers
resroot name	Root for naming of results files (e.g. root.op, root.mass, root-0001.wd etc)	Default: out Buscot: res_D (giving res_D.op, res_D.mass etc),	All models
dirroot foldername	Relative or absolute path for the directory where results files (excluding the .chkpnt file) are to be placed. The directory is created if it doesn't exist already. If this keyword is omitted results files are placed in the directory in which the model was executed	Default: directory in which model was executed Buscot: results_D	All models
saveint value	Interval in seconds at which results files are saved. Note each file is saved with a sequential number	Default: 1000 Buscot 10000.0	All models

	stamp, e.g. results-0001.wd		
massint value	Interval in seconds at which the .mass file is written to	Default: 100 Buscot: 100.0	All models
sim_time value	Total length of the simulation in seconds (real value).	Default: 3600 Buscot: 100000.0	All solvers
initial_tstep value	<i>Fixed time step model</i> Model time step in seconds (real value) <i>Acceleration and Adaptive time step model</i> Initial guess for the optimum time step and maximum possible time step.	Default: 10 Buscot: 1.0	All solvers
bcfile filename	Name of file identifying floodplain boundary condition types	No default Buscot: buscot.bci	All solvers
bdyfile filename	Name of file containing information on time varying channel and floodplain boundary conditions	No default value buscot.bdy available but commented out	All solvers
fpfric value	Manning's <i>n</i> value for floodplain if spatially uniform. If both fpfric and manningfile are specified, fpfric will not be used	Default: 0.06 Buscot: 0.06	2D model solvers only
manningfile filename	Name of file containing a grid of floodplain <i>n</i> values in ARC ascii raster format to allow spatially variable floodplain friction. This should have the same dimensions and resolution as the DEMfile. If both fpfric and manningfile are specified values in manningfile will be used and fpfric will be redundant.	No default Buscot: buscot.n.ascii available but commented out as standard so not used.	2D model solvers only

Table 6 Items that turn on or off specific model solvers. If none of these items are entered then the 1D kinematic solver will be used to river channel flow and the 2D adaptive solver will be used for floodplain flow

Item name input	Description	Value in the Buscot weir test case (Diffusive case)	Applicable model solver
diffusive	As default the code uses the kinematic solver for the river channel. If this keyword is specified in the .par file the diffusive solver is used instead.	Option off as default Used in the Buscot test case	1D Diffusive
adaptoff	As default the code uses adaptive time-stepping. This logical keyword suppresses adaptive time stepping algorithm and a fixed time step is used. Cannot be used in conjunction with sub-grid channels as this version of the model uses the inertial formulation for the 2D model.	Option off as default Buscot: keyword specified to activate the fixed time-step version	2D Fixed timestep
acceleration	Invokes the inertial formulation for the 2D model. Not needed for sub-grid and cannot be used in non-adaptive time step model.	Option off as default Not used in the buscot test case	2D inertial model
routing	Routing scheme enabled. Routing only occurs when depth < depththresh, or when the water surface slope exceeds routesfthresh. User should also supply routingspeed, routesfthresh and depththresh parameter values (see Table 10). Note: this option can only be used in conjunction with the Subgrid or 2D inertial solvers.	Default: off	Subgrid and 2D inertial only
SGCwidth filename	Channel widths for the sub-grid channel model. This file is essential to switch the model to sub-grid model. It should be noted that sub-grid uses the 2D inertial model for floodplain flow. Note – this keyword must be accompanied by other subgrid-specific par file items given in table below.	No default value Not used in Buscot test case	Subgrid
Roe	Keyword which turns on the 2D shallow water model (Roe solver). *note – don't use with "adaptoff"	Option off as default Not used in Buscot test case	2D shallow water model

Table 7 Defining river channel location and properties

Item name input	Description	Value in the Buscot weir test case (Diffusive case)	Applicable model solver
riverfile filename	Name of file containing channel geometry and boundary condition information. Omit if no channel.	Option off as default Buscot: buscot_D.river	1D Diffusive and kinematic
Multiriverfile filename	Name of file containing index of .river files for models with multiple 1D river networks in the same domain.	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	1D Diffusive and kinematic
SGCwidth filename	Channel widths for the sub-grid channel model. This file is essential to switch the model to sub-grid model. It should be noted that sub-grid uses the 2D inertial model for floodplain flow.	No default value Not used in Buscot test case	Subgrid
SGCbank filename	Channel bank heights file for the sub-grid channel model. Must be specified but can be the DEM file	No default value Not used in Buscot test case	Subgrid
SGCbed filename	Channel bed elevations file for the sub-grid channel model. If not specified channel parameters will be used to estimate the depth. If no channel parameters are provided (see below) then depth will be estimated assuming a rectangular cross section channel and geometry values suitable for an average UK gravel bed river	Default: values calculated as detailed in box to left Not used in Buscot test case	Subgrid
SGCchangroup filename	Channel parameter regions file for the sub-grid channel model.	No default value Not used in Buscot test case	Subgrid
SGCchanprams filename	Channel parameters file for sub-grid channel parameter regions	No default value Not used in Buscot test case	Subgrid
SGCn value	Global channel n for the sub-grid channel model.	Default: 0.035 Not used in Buscot test case	Subgrid
SGCr value	Global parameter for calculating the sub-grid channel depth.	Default 0.3 Not used in Buscot test case	Subgrid
SGCp value	Global parameter for calculating the sub-grid channel depth.	Default: 0.76 Not used in Buscot test case	Subgrid
SGCchan value	Global sub-grid channel model shape type (integer).	Default: 1 (rectangular) Not used in Buscot test case	Subgrid
SGCs value	Global parameter necessary for some sub-grid channel model shape types.	Default: 2 (parabolic) Not used in Buscot test case	Subgrid

Table 8 Defining additional water inputs and outputs (rainfall, evaporation and infiltration)

Item name input	Description	Value in the Buscot weir test case (Diffusive case)	Applicable model solver
rainfall filename	Name of file containing rainfall data. Applies spatially uniform rainfall field to all cells. It is recommended to enable the routing scheme if DEM contains any steep slopes (see <i>routing</i> keyword).	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	All 2D models
infiltration value	Spatially uniform infiltration rate for the floodplain in ms ⁻¹ .	Default: 0 Buscot: 0.0000001	All 2D models except Roe

		but commented out	
evaporation filename	Name of file containing evaporation data.	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	All 2D models except Roe

Table 9 Options relating specifically to model starting conditions

Item name input	Description	Value in the Buscot weir test case (Diffusive case)	Applicable model solver
tstart value	Options to change the simulation start time. Units are seconds	Default: 0 Not used in the Buscot test case	All models
checkpoint value	Logical keyword which turns on checkpointing. Followed by interval in hours of computation time at which checkpointing occurs. If no value is set a default value of 1 hour is used. When the model starts it automatically looks for and reads in the default file named "resroot".chkpnt in the directory from which the model was executed, unless the loadcheck keyword with alternative filename is used. The user needs to delete the .chkpnt or turn off this option to commence the simulation again from the beginning.	Option off as default. If keyword is specified then default value is 1 (hr). Not used in the Buscot test case (commented out)	All models except Roe (in theory)
loadcheck filename	Name of an alternative file used to start the checkpointing. By default, the program uses a single file which is overwritten at the checkpointing interval. This alternative start file allows you to start from a file that does not get overwritten by the checkpoint function	Option off as default. Not used in the Buscot test case	All models except Roe (in theory)
ch_start_h value	By default, the channel solver will start with a water depth of 2m for the whole channel. The user can override this by using this option and a value. This can speed up the spinup time of the model.	Default: 2 Not specified in the Buscot test case	1D Diffusive and kinematic
startq	In kinematic mode, the model will calculate a water level for each section given the inflow at the top of the reach. In diffusive mode, the model will iterate to the initial steady state solution given a downstream boundary condition and an upstream inflow. Will dramatically decrease spin up time for complex channels. See "ch_dyanmic" below for more details	Option is off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	1D Diffusive and kinematic
ch_dynamic	Startq will automatically use the diffusive steady state solution in diffusive mode. Use this keyword to activate full dynamic steady state initial condition. Mainly incorporated for forward compatibility and very complex channel systems. Can only be used in conjunction with "startq"	Option is off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	1D Diffusive
binarystartfile filename	This is the same as the keyword startfile (above) but the input data are in binary format. As default this option is off and this keyword must be specified to activate it	Option is off as default. Not used in the Buscot test case	All 2D models and subgrid
startelev filename	Similar to startfile but initialises the model with water surface elevation rather than depth. As default this option is off and this keyword must be specified to activate it	Option is off as default. Not used in the Buscot test case	All 2D models and subgrid
startfile filename	Name of previous results file in ARC ascii raster format used to provide initial conditions for a model simulation. This should be a water depth file	Option is off as default Not used in Buscot test case (commented out)	All 2D models except Roe

Table 10 Additional, less commonly used settings and parameters

Item name input	Description	Value in the Buscot weir test case (Diffusive)	Applicable model solver
-----------------	-------------	------------------------------------------------	-------------------------

		case)	
ts_multiple value	Decouples the channel and floodplain time step and increases the channel timestep. Enter a value after the keyword to invoke more than x1. Tests show up to x10 gives almost identical results to x1. If used, check sensitivity of results.	Option off as default. If keyword is specified default value is 1. Not used in the Buscot test case	1D Diffusive and kinematic
htol value	Optional parameter to override default 1m bank smoothing.	Option is off as default. Not used in the Buscot test case	1D Diffusive and kinematic
chainageoff	As default the code now makes river channel chainage independent of cell size and uses straight line distance between entered sections. Use this keyword to revert to the old calculation which used cell dx dimensions.	Option off as default, Used in the Buscot test case	1D Diffusive and kinematic
depththresh value	Option to change the depth at which a cell is considered wet (in metres). Also controls threshold beneath which the rainfall routing scheme operates (if enabled).	Default: 0.001 Not used in the Buscot test case	All 2D models and subgrid
weirfile filename	Name of file containing information on location and nature of any weir or bridge linkages between cells to be included in the model.	No default value buscot.weir	2D All models for weirs and subgrid channels only for bridges
cfl value	Option to change the stability coefficient used to determine the model time step.	Default: 0.7 Not used in the Buscot test case	2D inertial and shallow water models and sub-grid
drycheckon	Turns on drycheck (see Bates and de Roo 2000).	Default: drycheck is off Not used in the Buscot test case	2D Adaptive, and fixed timestep and inertial models
drycheckoff	Turns off drycheck (see Bates and de Roo 2000).	Default: drycheck is off Not used in the Buscot test case	2D Adaptive, and fixed timestep and inertial models
routing speed value	Sets speed (ms^{-1}) at which water is routed across domain if routing scheme is enabled.	Option off as default, if routing active then default value is 0.1 Not used in the Buscot test case	Subgrid and 2D inertial only
routesfthresh value	Water surface slope above which routing occurs if routing scheme is enabled. Used to enable model stability and conserve mass in areas of steep terrain.	Default: 0.1 Not used in the buscot test case	Subgrid and 2D inertial only
routing_mass_check	Enable routing scheme mass balance check Checks each routing cell, and if total volume out exceeds total volume, reduces the routing Q Enabling this check slows the model processing ~20%		
diffusive_froude_thresh value	Switch to diffusive when froude above threshold	Default off	Subgrid
dhlin value	Option to change linearisation threshold for adaptive version. Increasing the value reduces run time and accuracy. As default the dhlin value is calculated for each simulation as dx times 0.0002 from Cunge et al., 1980 and Hunter et al., 2005	Default: see text to left Not used in the Buscot test case	2D Adaptive timestep
porfile filename	Option to include cell porosity details within the model, i.e. the portion of each cell which is likely to be inundated. Please email for Tim Fewtrell's Porosity manual for full details. Note - while the code for this works fine, the methodology is still at the development stage.	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	2D Adaptive time-step
1Dfriction	Option to change to a 1D friction treatment when using the inertial model	Option off as default (uses 2D friction treatment)	2D inertia model

		Not used in Buscot test case	
theta value	Adds numerical diffusion to the inertial model if below 1.	Default: 1 Buscot: not specified	2D inertial model
momentumthresh value	Option to change the threshold for the momentum equation used by the Roe solver.	Default: 0.001 Not used in Buscot test case	2D Shallow water model
qlimfact value	Keyword which allows the user to vary the flow limit in the fixed time-step 2D solver by a specified factor. The calculated flow limit will be multiplied the input value	Default: 1 Not used in the buscot test case	2D Fixed timestep
gravity value	Keyword used to change the gravity value used for calculations, in ms^{-2}	Default: 9.81...	2D inertia model and subgrid.
Latlong	In development. Option to change all coordinates and cell dimensions to decimal degrees. This means lisflood will expect and values relating to location or cell size to be in decimal degrees (ascii file headers, bci, stage, gauge and weir files etc) and any flow rates to be in m^3s^{-1} (bdy and bci file)	Default: off Not used in buscot test case	Subgrid

Table 11 Options related to additional output files or output settings

Item name input	Description	Value in the Buscot weir test case (Diffusive case)	Applicable model solver
overpass value	Time in seconds at which an observed flood image is available for model validation. When specified the model writes a set of results files (water depth *.op and water surface elevation *.opelev) at this point in the simulation to allow easy model validation	Option off as default Buscot: 100000	All models
overpassfile filename	Name of file containing times of multiple satellite overpasses. See section 3.2.15. water depth and surface elevation files are produced for each overpass time (*-xxxx-T.op and *-xxxx-T.opelev)	No default value Buscot.opts available but commented out	All models
stagefile filename	Name of file containing x, y locations of points at which stage values are to be written to a text file (*.stage) at each massint	No default value. Not used in buscot test case (commented out)	All models
depthoff	Logical keyword to suppress production of depth files (*.wd) at each saveint. If simulation uses subgrid, *.wdfp files are also suppressed.	Option off as default Not used in buscot test case (commented out)	All models
elevoff	Logical keyword to suppress production of water surface elevation files (*.elev) at each saveint and overpass time if specified (*.opelev and *-xxxx-T.opelev).	Option off as default Used in buscot test case	All models
resetimeinit value	Resets the time of initial inundation counter to zero at a specified time by the user. The keyword should be followed by the time in seconds at which the reset should take place.	Default: 0 Not used in the Buscot test case	All models
ascheader filename	Name of file containing alternative header information for output of ascii raster grids. Useful for switching to lat/long format.	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	All models
debug	Outputs a number of useful files; the final dem after burning in the channel and bank mods (*.dem, in subgrid mode this is simply the input dem), the channel mask (*.chmask) and the channel segment mask (*.segmask). If subgrid is used then files containing details of the subgrid bed elevations,	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	All models

	the bankfull depth and the channel width are produced instead (*_SGC_bedZ.asc, *_SGC_bfdepth.asc, *_SGC_width.asc).		
mint_hk	Keyword to allow calculation of maxH (maximum water depth), maxHtm (time of maximum water depth), totalHtm (total inundation time) and initHtm (initial inundation time) at the mass interval rather than every time-step . Useful for parallel solutions and should decrease computation time. This related to ascii raster grids *_max, *_mxe, *_inittm, *_maxtm and *_totaltm	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	All models
comp_out	Keyword to initiate model time/computation time ratio output to standard out buffer. Details in section 6 below.	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	All models
profiles	Keyword which forces the model to produce channel water surface profile files (*.profile) at each saveint. If any overpass times are also specified then water surface profile files are also produced for these times.	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	1D Kinematic and Diffusive
qoutput	Keyword which forces the model to write out ascii raster grid files of the floodplain flux values in the x and y Cartesian directions (*.Qx and *.Qy). In subgrid mode then channel grids of channel flux values and channel flow width are also produced (*.Qcx, *.Qcy and *.Fwidth). Grids are output at each saveint.	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case (commented out)	All 2D models and subgrid
voutput	Keyword which forces the model to write out ascii raster grid files (*.Vx and *.Vy) of the velocity values in the x and y Cartesian directions. Grids are output at each saveint. As default this option is off and this keyword must be specified to activate it	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	All 2D models and subgrid
SGCvoutput	Keyword which forces the model to write out ascii raster grid files (*.SGCVx and *.SGCVy) of the sub-grid channel velocity values in the x and y Cartesian directions. Also exports velocity for each channel cell *.SGCVc. Grids are output at each saveint. As default this option is off and this keyword must be specified to activate it	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	Subgrid
gaugefile filename	Tells the model to read a file containing x,y locations of virtual gauging stations where discharge will be measured and written to a text file (*.discharge).	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	All 2D models and subgrid
binary_out	Switches grid output from ascii raster to double or float precision binary data and adds suffix "b" to all filenames e.g. *.wd->*.wdb. Does not include grids associated with the debug keyword.	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	All 2D models and subgrid
netcdf_out	Switches grid output from ascii raster to netcdf output.		
hazard	Forces the model to write out ascii raster grid files related to the water velocity at each saveint (*.Vx, and *.Vy), and related to the maximum velocity values, water depths and hazard for each simulation (*.maxVx, *.maxVy, *.maxVc, *.maxVcd and *.maxHaz)	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	All 2D models and subgrid
qloutput	Keyword which forces the model to write out ascii raster grids of the per cell flow limiter values calculated by the adaptive time stepping routine. Grids are output at each saveint and separate values are calculated for the x and y Cartesian directions (*.QLx and *.QLy).	Option off as default Not used in the Buscot test case	2D fixed timestep

An example .par file for the Buscot application is given below (this is the buscot_D.par file provided with the download):

```

DEMfile          buscot.dem.ascii
resroot          res_D
dirroot          results_D
sim_time         100000.0
initial_tstep    1.0
massint          100.0
saveint          10000.0
#checkpoint      0.00001
overpass         100000.0
fpfric           0.06
#infiltration    0.000001
#overpassfile    buscot.opts
#manningfile     buscot.n.ascii
riverfile        buscot_D.river
bcifile          buscot.bci
#bdyfile         buscot.bdy
weirfile         buscot.weir
#startfile       res.old
#stagefile       buscot.stage
elevoff
#depthoff
diffusive
adaptoff
#qoutput
chainageoff

```

As this application involves a steady state, fixed timestep simulation and a single satellite overpass, the time varying boundary condition file name (*bdyfile*) and the overpass file name (*overpassfile*) have been commented out and the keyword *adaptoff* specified. The simulation also uses a spatially uniform floodplain friction, includes weirs, and begins from the default initial conditions with no checkpointing. Stage outputs at locations within the domain, water elevation grids and flux grids are not requested, but water depth grids are. The results files all have the suffix *.res_D* and are placed in the directory *./results_D*.

3.2.2 Channel information file (*.river*)

This file gives information on the location and nature of the channels along the reach. For a model domain containing no channel this file is omitted. The channels are discretised as a single vector along the centreline and the model then interpolates this vector onto the raster grid specified by the user. The vector should run beyond the edge of the model domain. However there should be no more than one point off the model domain at the upstream and downstream ends of a river and no more than one vector point in any DEM cell (so an *x* and *y* point in the *.river* file should never be in the same DEM cell as another). Each channel is described in terms of its width, Manning's *n* friction coefficient and bed elevation (so hence channel depth when combined with the floodplain elevation described in the DEM) and the linkages between different tributary channels are prescribed using a series of keywords. The user then has two options for prescribing this information.

- Option 1: Uniform channel

Characteristics for each channel are provided for the first and last points of the channel vector, and the code automatically fills in intermediate points by linear interpolation. By specifying the channel bed elevation at the first and last points on the channel vector the user is able to specify the (uniform) bed slope for that channel reach.

- Option 2: Spatially variable channel

Additional values can be specified at any point along the reach, but all 3 values for width, Manning's *n* and bed elevation must be supplied. One should note that for the kinematic approximation to in-channel flow, the down reach slope should be negative (or positive downhill) (i.e. the channel bed should not increase in elevation in the downstream direction). LISFLOOD-FP

will allow uphill slopes for the kinematic solver, but just pretend they are downhill and give a warning. The diffusive solver can handle uphill slopes so no warnings are issued.

The file is formatted as follows

```

Line 1: Keyword Tribs followed by number of channel segments (if this line is omitted the model assumes a single
        channel reach)
Line 2: Number of data points in the channel vector (i)
Line 3: X1      Y1      Width1      n1      Bed elevation1      BC      Value
Line 4: X2      Y2      Width2      n2      Bed elevation2      Lateral inflow2
Line 5: X3      Y3      Width3      n3      Bed elevation3
etc..... ...      ...      ...      ...      ...
Line i: Xi      Yi      Widthi      ni      Bed elevationi

```

Hence, values for channel width, Manning's n , and bed elevation between line 2 and line $i-1$ are optional. The first point on the vector must also contain a boundary condition (BC) for the inflow discharge and its value. Here again the user has two options:

- Option 1: Constant inflow.

To use this option to simulate steady state flow BC is given the keyword `QFIX` and the associated value is the inflow discharge at the upstream end of the model in m^3s^{-1} .

- Option 2: Time-varying inflow.

To use this option to simulate a dynamic flood wave BC is given the keyword `QVAR` and the associated value is a boundary identifier chosen by the user, e.g. `upstream1`. Information about the time varying boundary condition data is then held in the time varying boundary condition file (`.bdy`).

At any point along the reach a lateral inflow may be specified as a source term to represent minor tributary inflows or other catchment hydrological processes which do not require a channel to be represented. Width, Manning's n etc do not need to be given at these points, but can be if necessary.

An example `.river` file for the Buscot application is given below:

```

Tribs 1
133
22950.000    -1930.000    20.000        0.03    68.740479    QFIX 73.0
23107.670    -1929.020
23140.552    -1924.844
23183.698    -1931.253    20.000        0.03    68.5          QVAR latinflow1
etc....      ....
26739.636    -1161.781    25.000        0.04    68.230
26759.629    -1130.894
26781.873    -1104.059    20.000        0.03    67.139

```

The file thus denotes a fixed inflow of $73\text{m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$, with channel width starting at 20m, increasing to 25m and back down to 20m, and a time varying lateral inflow at (23183.698, -1931.253) with values found in the `latinflow1` part of the `.bdy` file (see below).

The keyword identifier format for lateral inflows also provides the means of describing how tributary channels connect. For a `.river` file with multiple tributary channels the keyword `Trib` on line one of the river file is followed by an integer number which specifies the number of channel segments. If this line is omitted, or if this keyword equals 1, then the model assumes that there is a single channel reach. If multiple segments are present then the first channel is always the main stem. At each point along the main stem where a tributary river enters the user specifies the channel width, Manning's n and bed elevation and follows this by the keyword `Trib` and an integer number. This number identifies the segment number in the `.river` file which discharges into the main stem at this point. Segments are numbered sequentially in the order they appear in

the `.river` file starting at 0 (which should be the main stem). Each channel segment is described in the `.river` file in exactly the same way as a single channel would be, with the exception that the x , y co-ordinates, width, Manning's n and bed elevation for the last point on each segment is followed by the keyword `QOUT` followed by the number of the channel segment into which this tributary discharges. The format is thus:

Line 1:	Number of data points in the channel vector (i)							
Line 2:	X_1	Y_1	$Width_1$	n_1	Bed elevation ₁	BC	Value	
Line 3:	X_2	Y_2	$Width_2$	n_2	Bed elevation ₂	Lateral inflow ₂		
Line 4:	X_3	Y_3	$Width_3$	n_3	Bed elevation ₃			
etc.....	...	...	...	...	...
Line i:	X_i	Y_i	$Width_i$	n_i	Bed elevation _i	QOUT	Segment number	

Repeating this process allows a dendritic drainage pattern with infinite stream order to be described. As an example, the following is a `.river` file for the Buscot reach assuming a single tributary joining the main stem. In addition this tributary is itself joined by a single tributary. Time varying discharge into the head of each channel segment is described by the keywords `upstream1`, `upstream2` and `upstream3`.

```

Tribes 3
133
22950.000 -1930.000 20.000 0.03 68.740479 QVAR upstream1
23107.670 -1929.020
23140.552 -1924.844
25617.870 -1428.595 20.000 0.03 68.0 TRIB 1
etc....
26706.838 -1179.890
26739.636 -1161.781
26759.629 -1130.894
26781.873 -1104.059 20.000 0.03 67.139
3
24350.0 0.0 5.0 0.03 69.0 QVAR upstream2
24900.0 -600.0 5.0 0.03 68.5 TRIB 2
25617.870 -1428.595 5.0 0.03 68.0 QOUT 0
2
22950.0 -600.0 5.0 0.03 69.0 QVAR upstream3
24900.0 -600.0 5.0 0.03 68.5 QOUT 1

```

Downstream Boundary Conditions for the Diffusive Channel Solver

Unlike the kinematic solver, the diffusive channel solver requires a downstream boundary condition. For tributaries this is handled automatically by LISFLOOD-FP, which uses the water level from the downstream receiving channel. However, for the main channel a boundary condition will have to be provided by the user – and you will be warned if it is not present. Currently there are two fully tested options for this.

- Option 1: Normal depth calculation

To use this option, use the keyword `FREE` to force the model to calculate the normal depth for the downstream water level. There are two options available of which the latter is considerably more stable. Option a is to allow the model to calculate the slope used for the normal depth calculation which uses the slope between the last two river sections e.g.

```

22950.0 -600.0 5.0 0.03 69.0
24900.0 -600.0 5.0 0.03 68.5 FREE

```

Option b is to specify a user determined slope which is normally taken as the overall valley slope e.g.

```

22950.0 -600.0 5.0 0.03 69.0

```



```
24900.0      -600.0      5.0      0.03  68.5      FREE  0.0006
```

- Option 2: Constant water level.

To use this option to simulate a steady state water level BC, use the keyword `HFIX` and the associated water ELEVATION value at the downstream end of the model in m. e.g.

```
22950.0      -600.0      5.0      0.03  69.0
24900.0      -600.0      5.0      0.03  68.5      HFIX  38.345
```

- Option 3: Time-varying water level.

To use this option to simulate a dynamic flood wave BC, use the keyword `HVAR` and the associated value is a boundary identifier chosen by the user, e.g. `downstream1`. Information about the time varying boundary condition data is then held in the time varying boundary condition file (`.bdy`).

3.2.3 *Multiple unconnected channels (.rivers)*

This file is used as an index of `.river` files and is required when there are two or more 1D channel networks within a model domain. It is therefore needed if you wish to model multiple catchments that supply different main stem rivers within the same domain. It is NOT needed for a single network of sub-catchments where all tributaries supply the same main stem channel; this scenario is handled within a single `.river` file.

The file is read when the keyword `multiriverfile` appears in the `.par` file. The first line of the file specifies the number of `.river` files in the model. The following lines supply the file names of the `.river` files. For example:

```
Line 1: 3
Line 2: Thames.river
Line 3: Severn.river
Line 4: Avon.river
```

Each of the individual `.river` files behave as normal and should be written as instructed in section 3.2.2. Be careful not to repeat boundary condition names in different `.river` files unless you want to use the same condition across multiple rivers.

3.2.4 *Boundary condition type file (.bci)*

This file specifies boundary conditions not associated with the channel. There can be any number of boundaries on the edge of the domain or at points within the domain itself. There must not be more than one point source per cell.

Column 1: Boundary identifier taking a value of N, E, S, W, F or P and referring to the north, east, south or west boundaries or F referring to a sub-grid channel internal point FREE boundary or P referring to a point source

Column 2: start of boundary segment (easting or northing in map co-ordinates or decimal degrees in the WGS 84 system if using the `latlong` option) for edge boundaries or easting in map co-ordinates or decimal degrees for a point source location

Column 3: End of boundary segment (easting or northing in map co-ordinates or decimal degrees in the WGS 84 system if using the `latlong` option) for edge boundaries or northing in map co-ordinates or decimal degrees for a point source location

Column 4: Boundary condition type

Column 5: Boundary condition value. This varies according to boundary condition type as indicated in Table 12.

Possible boundary condition types and their associated values are given in Table 12.

Table 12: Types of boundary condition available in the `.bci` file.

Boundary condition type	Description	Value supplied in column 5 of the <code>.bci</code> file
CLOSED	Zero-flux (default option)	None

FREE	Uniform flow	Free surface or valley slope (optional)
HFIX	Fixed free surface elevation	Free surface elevation in metres
HVAR	Time varying free surface elevation,	Boundary identifier (e.g. <code>downstream1</code>) corresponding to data in the user supplied <code>.bdy</code> file.
QFIX	Fixed flow into domain	Mass flux per unit width (m^2s^{-1}). For a boundary segment this is multiplied within the code by the length of the boundary segment to give the mass flux in m^3s^{-1} . For a point source the mass flux per unit width is multiplied by the cell width to the mass flux in m^3s^{-1} . Note if the keyword <code>latlong</code> is specified then this value must be in terms of volume flux instead (m^3s^{-1})
QVAR	Time varying flow into domain	Boundary identifier (e.g. <code>upstream1</code>) corresponding to data in the user supplied <code>.bdy</code> file

An example `.bci` file for the Buscot application is given below:

```
E           -1200           -1800           HFIX           69.000
```

This specifies a fixed free surface elevation boundary on the east side of the domain between northing co-ordinates `-1200` and `-1800` (i.e. on the y axis).

3.2.5 Time varying boundary conditions file (`.bdy`)

This file is used to specify time varying boundary conditions (keywords `QVAR` or `HVAR` in the `.river` or `.bci` files) associated with a channel segment, boundary segment or point source. For each time varying boundary condition the format for the file is as follows:

Line 1: Comment line, ignored by LISFLOOD-FP.

Line 2: Boundary identifier (this should be consistent with notation supplied in the `.river` or `.bci` file).

Line 3: Number of time points at which boundary information is given followed by a keyword for the time units used (either 'days', 'hours' or 'seconds').

Line 4: Value₁ Time₁

Line 5: Value₂ Time₂

etc....

Line i: Value_i Time_i

Where Value_i is the value of the relevant quantity for the given boundary type. For all `HVAR` boundaries Value_i is a water surface elevation in metres. However, the units of Value_i for `QVAR` boundaries depend on whether the given boundary identifier is specified in the `.river` or `.bci` files. This seems complex, but is a consequence of having a 1D channel model coupled to a 2D floodplain model and actually makes setting up the code a lot easier. For a `QVAR` boundary specified in the `.river` file Value_i is given as mass flux with units of m^3s^{-1} . By contrast, for a `QVAR` boundary specified in the `.bci` file Value_i is given as mass flux per unit width with units of m^2s^{-1} . In this latter case the flux per unit width is multiplied within the code either by the length of the boundary segment (for a boundary flux) or the cell size (for a point source) to give the mass flux in m^3s^{-1} . Note if the keyword `latlong` is specified then `QVAR` values must be given in terms of volume flux instead (m^3s^{-1}) to account for varying cell dimensions in terms of meters.

An example `.bdy` file for the Buscot application is given below

```
QTBODY   Obtained from results file C:\HALCROW\KISMOD\KISL_100.ZZN
downstream1
          3                      seconds
          70.                    0
          71.000                 25000
          70.000                 50000
```

This specifies a water surface elevation varying in time between 70 and 71m for the boundary segment identified by the keyword `downstream1`. The location of this segment is specified in the `.bci` file. Currently the only supported units are “seconds” and “hours”. If an identifier specified in the `.river` or `.bci` file is not found in the `.bdy` file, or one found in the `.bdy` file has no reference in the `.river` or `.bci` file, a warning is output (verbose mode only - see below) and the boundary defaults to zero flux.

3.2.6 **Digital Elevation Model file (`.dem.ascii`)**

This file specifies the Digital Elevation Model used by the model. It consists of a 2D raster array of ground elevations in ARC ascii raster format. The file may be manipulated using either the ARC-View or ARCGIS Geographical Information System platforms or manually edited using a text editor. For full details on the ARC ascii raster format the user is referred to the ARC documentation. A brief summary of the format is provided below.

The file consists of a 6 line header followed by the numerical values of each data point on the grid as a 2D array of *i* rows and *j* columns. Each line of the header consists of a self-explanatory keyword followed by a numeric value. As an example, the header for the Buscot application is given below (comments in brackets are not part of the file format):

```
ncols          76          (Number of columns)
nrows          48          (Number of rows)
xllcorner      22950       (X cartesian co-ordinate of the lower left
                           corner of the grid in metres*)
yllcorner      -2400       (Y cartesian co-ordinate of the lower left
                           corner of the grid in metres*)
cellsize       50.0        (Cell size in metres*)
NODATA_value   -9999       (Null value)
```

*Note if the keyword `latlong` is specified in the `par` file then `xllcorner`, `yllcorner` and `cellsize` must be given in terms of decimal degrees.

3.2.7 **Porosity file**

This allows details of the proportion of each cell in the grid which can become inundated (thus affecting the water capacity of the cell) to be simulated. There are currently 4 methods implemented, ranging from fixed porosity values to those which vary with inundation height, with additional options for how individual cell boundaries are treated. The porosity file is set out like a model `.par` file and instructs the model to read in a number of other files and set values for related parameters. It also produces some additional related output files. Please email to request Tim Fewtrell's Porosity Manual for full details. Note - while the code for this works fine, the methodology is still at the development stage and may give unexpected results.

3.2.8 **Floodplain friction coefficient file (`.n.ascii`)**

This file can be used by the user to specify a spatially variable friction coefficient across the floodplain by assigning values of Manning's *n* to each cell on the raster grid. Again, the file format is an ARC-Info ascii raster as described in section 3.2.6 above.

3.2.9 **Sub-grid model river width file (`.width.asc`)**

This file can be used to specify the locations of sub-grid channel in the raster grid. Like the DEM the file is in ARC-Info ascii raster format. Each cell can contain one value for the river width. If no channels exist in a cell the value of that cell should be zero or NoData.

3.2.10 **Sub-grid model bed elevations file (.bed.asc) (optional)**

This file can be used to specify the bed elevation of sub-grid channels in the raster grid. Like the DEM the file is in ARC-Info ascii raster format. Each cell can contain one value for the river bed elevation. If there is no channel width in a cell, as specified in the width file, the bed elevation value will have no effect. If the bed elevation is unknown in a cell the value should be set to `NoData`. When the bed elevation is set to `NoData` but the channel has a width, the width and bank height and either a channel parameter file or default channel parameter values will be used to calculate the channel depth and bed elevation. Default values assume a rectangular cross section channel and are based on an average UK gravel bed river.

3.2.11 **Sub-grid model bank elevation file (.bank.asc)**

This file can be used to specify the elevation of the river banks from which the bed elevation is calculated using the river channel parameters in the sub-grid parameter file (.pram) (section 4.2.11). Like the DEM the file is in ARC-Info ascii raster format. The bank elevations do not control when the river banks overtop, this is determined by the elevation in the DEM, however, they do have an effect on the channel bed elevation. If the DEM elevation and the bank elevation are the same the DEM can be used for this file. Elevations in cells without channel widths are ignored by the model. In the case of `NoData` the DEM elevation will be used.

3.2.12 **Sub-grid model channel region file (.region.asc) (optional)**

This file can be used to split up the sub-grid channels into regions of homogeneous parameterisations, without this file the model will apply the same sub-grid channel parameters to the whole domain. Like the DEM the file is in ARC-Info ascii raster format, however the values in the cells should be integers. Regions should start from 0 up the number of regions that are required in the model domain; there is no limit on the number of separate regions however each region will require parameters in the .pram file. Where there is no channel in a cell the region will have any effect on the model.

3.2.13 **Sub-grid model channel parameter file (.pram) (optional)**

This file is used to specify the channel parameters of each region of the model domain as defined in the .region.asc file. For each region the format for the file is as follows:

```
Line 1: Number of regions in the model domain (integer). This must match the number of regions in the .region.asc file
Line 2: Region1    Type1    p1        r1        s1        nch1    m1
Line 5: Region2    Type2    p2        r2        s2        nch2    m2
etc....  ...
Line i: Regioni    Typei    pi        ri        si        nchi    mi
```

Where *Region₁* is the integer region number that matches a region in the .region.asc file. This should start at 0 and count to the number of regions-1. Type is the type of channel, this is an integer value and will be 1 for a rectangular channel, Table 13 below gives more information on alternative channel types. r and p control the depth of the channel given the widths, where cell channel *depth* = $r \cdot \text{width}^p$. Channel bed elevation is then the banks elevation minus channel depth. S is an additional parameter for some types of channel model. In the case of the rectangular sub-grid channel S has no effect but it is needed for some of the other channel types (see Table 13). *nch* is the channel Manning's coefficient. Finally, *m* is an optional meander coefficient, each cell is assumed to contain a channel of length $dx \cdot m$, where m is 1 by default and thus has no effect. A value of m above 1 will lengthen the channel while a value below 1 will shorten it. Note that values of m below 1 may also reduce the model time step.

Table 13: Simple shapes of sub-grid channels

Channel Type	Channel shape	Impact of parameter s
1	Rectangular channel	None
2	Power	Determines the shape of the channel

An example `.pram` file is given below, the first channel is rectangular and the second is a power shape. Both channels have the same width depth relationship and Manning's coefficient. The third channel is the same as the first but has a higher friction coefficient and will be 10% deeper for the same channel width.

```

3
0      1      0.30  0.78  -9999  0.035
1      2      0.30  0.78   3.2    0.035
2      1      0.33  0.78  -9999  0.045

```

3.2.14 Weir & bridge cell linkage specification file (`.weir`)

The location and properties of weir and bridge type objects in the domain are both read in using the `.weir` input file. The format of the direction information in the input file is used to specify whether a feature should be treated by lisflood as a weir-type or bridge-type object.

3.2.14.1 Weirs, embankments and structures

If weirs are to be included in the model then appendix 6.1 which gives further details on these calculations (including their limitations) must be read. Information about these linkages is given in the `.weir` file. The file format is as follows:

Line 1; total number of weir and bridge-type linkages between cells (i).

Line 2;	X_1	Y_1	Direction ₁	C_1	Crest height ₁	Modular limit ₁	Width ₁
Line 3:	X_2	Y_2	Direction ₂	C_2	Crest height ₂	Modular limit ₂	Width ₂
etc...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Line i:	X_i	Y_i	Direction _i	C_i	Crest height _i	Modular limit _i	Width _i

where X and Y are the grid co-ordinates in Eastings and Northings of a cell with a weir linkage*. X and Y can be located anywhere within the cell being identified. Direction identifies the cell face with the linkage N, E, S or W (Obviously 10 42 W is the same as 10 41 E). If flow in only one direction is required (e.g. for a culvert), the direction may be fixed by using the tags NF, EF, SF, or WF. C is the weir flow coefficient, typically ranging from 0.5-1.7 and taking a value of 1.4 for a standard broad crested weir. Crest height is the height of the weir in m.a.s.l or the co-ordinate system being used in the model. Modular limit is the modular limit of the weir, typically 0.9. Width is an optional width for the weir which defaults to the grid size if not supplied.

An example `.weir` file for the Buscot application is given below. Note that the weir width is not specified so a grid size (50m) is used as a default.

```

14
22950      -1700      N      1.7      72      0.9
23000      -1700      N      1.7      72      0.9
23050      -1700      N      1.7      72      0.9
23100      -1700      N      1.7      72      0.9
23150      -1700      N      1.7      72      0.9
23200      -1700      N      1.7      72      0.9
23250      -1700      N      1.7      72      0.9
23300      -1700      N      1.7      72      0.9
Etc

```

*Note if the keyword `latlong` is specified in the `par` file then X and Y locations must be given in terms of decimal degrees (although crest heights and widths remain in meters).

3.2.14.2 Bridges (currently subgrid channel version only)

If bridges are to be included in the model then appendix 6.2 which gives further details on these calculations (including their limitations) must be read. Currently bridges have only been implemented in the subgrid channel version. Like weirs, information about bridge linkages is also given in the `.weir` file. The file line format for bridges is as follows:

X_1	Y_1	Direction ₁	Cd ₁	Soffit elevation ₁	Transition zone ₁	Width ₁
-------	-------	------------------------	-----------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

where X and Y are the grid co-ordinates in Eastings and Northings of a cell with a weir linkage*. X and Y can be located anywhere within the cell being identified. Direction identifies the cell face with the linkage N, E, S or W (Obviously 10 42 W is the same as 10 41 E). **When stating the direction you must put n, s, e, w (north, south ...) followed by a b for bridge.** Cd is the coefficient of discharge for a fully submerged pressure flow, typically 0.8. Soffit elevation is the underside of the bridge deck elevation. Transition zone is the upper end of the zone for which lisflood-fp will take a weighted mean of the open channel flow and pressure flow (the lower end of the zone has a value of 1.0 and represents the point where the water elevation is equal to the soffit elevation). Typically for a bridge this should be a value of 1.5, see appendix 6.2 for further details. Width is the width of the bridge opening.

*Note if the keyword `latlong` is specified in the `par` file then `xllcorner`, `yllcorner` and `cellsize` must be given in terms of decimal degrees (although soffit elevation and widths remain in meters).

3.2.15 Multiple overpass file (*.opts*)

This file is used to specify the times in seconds of multiple satellite overpasses during a single simulation. This option is activated by including the optional keyword `overpassfile` followed by a filename in the `.par` file. The model then outputs a set of results files at each time specified, with the file naming including a simple counter (beginning at 0000) to signify each overpass requested. It is important to remember that the model time that the overpass counter signifies is not the same as that of the regular file output interval counter. The file format is as follows:

```
Line 1: Number of satellite overpasses
Line 2: Time of 1st overpass in seconds of simulation time
Line 3: Time of 2nd overpass in seconds of simulation time
etc...  ...      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...
Line i: Time of nth overpass in seconds of simulation time
```

An example `.opts` file is given below:

```
4
900.0
1800.0
2700.0
3600.0
```

3.2.16 Stage output data file (*.stage*)

This file is used to specify the x,y locations of points where the user wishes the model to output a time series of water depths. This option is activated by including the keyword `stagefile` in the `.par` file and following this with the name of the `.stage` file to be read. For each location specified in the file the water depth value is written out at each `massint` interval. The format of the file is as follows:

```
Line 1: Number of stage points at which water depth output time series are required
Line 2: x and y locations of 1st point
Line 3: x and y locations of 2nd point
etc...  ...      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...
Line i: x and y locations of nth point
```

An example `.stage` file is given below:

```
388869.59    233696.3
386307.41    239076.1
383681.45    245652.34
```

3.2.17 *Evaporation data file (.evap)*

This file is used to specify a time-varying evaporation rate and is read when the keyword `evaporation` appears in the `.par` file. This sink term is then applied to every model grid cell at each time step to give a spatially uniform evaporation loss over the domain. The file format is similar to the `.bdy` file:

Line 1: Comment line, ignored by LISFLOOD-FP.

Line 2: Number of time points at which boundary information is given followed by a keyword for the time units used (either 'days', 'hours' or 'seconds').

Line 3: Value₁ Time₁

Line 4: Value₂ Time₂

etc.... ...

Line i: Value_i Time_i

Where Value_i is evaporation rate in mm day⁻¹ and Time_i is the time at which this value occurs in the units specified on line 2. The model then linearly interpolates these values to give the evaporation rate at each time step.

3.2.18 *Alternative ascii header file (.head)*

This file is used to an alternative 6 line header for all ascii raster file output by the model and is read when the keyword `ascheader` appears in the `.par` file. This is particularly useful for switching between different coordinate systems (e.g. UTM to lat/long). The format is identical to that given in Section 3.2.6 and each line of the header consists of a self-explanatory keyword followed by a numeric value.

3.2.19 *Virtual gauge output data file (.gauge)*

This file is used to specify the x,y locations and lengths of cross-sections where the user wishes the model to output a time series of discharge crossing the section. This option is activated by including the keyword `gaugefile` in the `.par` file and following this with the name of the `.gauge` file to be read. For each location specified in the file the direction identifies the cell face from which discharge will be measured and the direction of positive flow (e.g. N, E, S or W). The width is then the length of the cross section in an easterly direction for measuring flows to the north and south, and a southerly direction for flows to the east or west (note that the distance will be rounded up to nearest cell width). The discharge value is written out at each `massint` interval. The format of the file is as follows:

Line 1; number of virtual gauge sections.

Line 2; X₁ Y₁ Direction₁ Width₁

Line 3: X₂ Y₂ Direction₂ Width₂

etc.... ...

Line i: X_i Y_i Direction_i Width_i

An example `.gauge` file is given below:

```
3
388869.59    233696.30    N    100
386307.41    239076.10    E    50
383681.45    245652.34    S    200
```

3.2.20 *Rainfall data file (.rain)*

This file is used to specify a time-varying rainfall rate and is read when the keyword `rainfall` appears in the `.par` file. When used in conjunction with the `routing` keyword, the rainfall

routing scheme replaces the shallow water equations with a fixed velocity flow for water depths $< \text{depththresh}$, reducing model runtime and allowing water to flow over terrain discontinuities (such as off building roofs) without destabilising the solution (Sampson et al., 2013). The rainfall term is applied to every model grid cell at each time step to give spatially uniform rainfall over the domain. The file format is similar to the `.bdy` file:

Line 1: Comment line, ignored by LISFLOOD-FP.

Line 2: Number of time points at which boundary information is given followed by a keyword for the time units used (either 'days', 'hours' or 'seconds').

Line 3: Value₁ Time₁

Line 4: Value₂ Time₂

etc.... ...

Line i: Value_i Time_i

Where $Value_i$ is rainfall rate in mm hr^{-1} and $Time_i$ is the time at which this value occurs in the units specified on line 2. The model then linearly interpolates these values to give the rainfall rate at each time step.

3.2.21 Checkpointing file (`.chkpnt`)

This file will be written by the model if checkpointing is on (by specifying the keyword `checkpointing` in the `.par` file). It can be used to restart the model from the time at which the checkpoint file was saved by a previous simulation, it includes the internal states and parameters of the model at the time the checkpoint file was written and will overwrite parameters specified in the `.par` file or on the command line.

3.2.22 Start file – water depth (`.start`)

This file in ARC ascii raster format is used to set initial depths in the model at the start of a simulation. This option is activated by including the keyword `startfile` in the `.par` file and following this with the name of the file to be read.

3.2.23 Start file – water depth binary (`.startb`)

This file in binary format is used to set initial depths in the model at the start of a simulation. This option is activated by including the keyword `binarystartfile` in the `.par` file and following this with the name of the file to be read. The binary data are in double precision except for the first two numbers in the file which are integers. Numbers in the file should be in the same order as the ARC ascii raster files, therefore:

`Ncols` (integer), `nrows` (integer), `xllcorner` (double), `yllcorner` (double), `cellsize` (double), `NODATA_value` (double), `depth` (doubles of `nrows*ncols` in length)

These files can be written in the model output by including the keyword `binary_out` in the `.par` file

3.2.24 Startfile – water elevation

This file in ARC ascii raster format is used to set initial water surface elevation in the model at the start of a simulation, which will be converted to a depth using the DEM by the model. This option is activated by including the keyword `startelev` in the `.par` file and following this with the name of the file to be read.

4 Setting up a simulation

Setting up a simulation requires generation of the above files populated with appropriate parameter values. There is no specific order in which to attempt these tasks but the following series of steps may appropriate in many cases:

1. Generate an appropriate floodplain DEM using a suitable program. Typically this would consist of high-resolution topography data in some format that is then manipulated to give a raster grid in the ARC ascii grid format (described in section 4.2.6). Save this as a `.dem.ascii` file.
2. If spatially variable floodplain friction is to be specified use a suitable program to generate a further ARC ascii raster grid of the same dimensions and cell size as the `.dem.ascii` file and populate this with appropriate Manning's n values. Save this as an `.n.ascii` file.
3. Generate a vector of the channel centre line in the same co-ordinate system as used for the `.dem.ascii` file using an appropriate digitising package.
4. Populate the `.river` file with channel and boundary condition information. Channel data should come from either site inspection or surveys or historic cross-sectional surveys. If the latter are used the possibility of geomorphic change should be allowed for.
5. Assign boundary condition data to the `.bci` and `.bdy` files if required.
6. Prescribe weir linkages if required in the `.weir` file.
7. Define model run time parameters and file names in the `.par` file.
8. Use the model to generate a set of initial conditions. This may be necessary for certain dynamic simulations and merely consists of the results file from a previous simulation. Specify the name of the initial conditions file after the keyword `startfile` in the `.par` file.

The model should now be ready for simulations to begin. In addition to this manual there are also a number of stand-alone exercises available to download. These including all necessary data and guide users through some example test-cases using `lisflood`. These are available from <http://www.bris.ac.uk/geography/research/hydrology/models/lisflood/training/>.

5 Running a simulation

To run the model, open a DOS or UNIX/LINUX shell and at a command prompt type the name of the executable file generated by the compiler and the name of the model parameter file. For Windows this is:

```
lisflood_win [command line options] model.par
```

while on UNIX/LINUX:

```
./lisflood_win [command line options] model.par
```

Where 'model' is the file naming convention chosen by the user (in the case of the example application given with this code release this is `buscot.par`). The LISFLOOD-FP source code has also been compiled for Mac OS in the past. The command line options can be used to turn on diagnostic information and warnings as the model runs or used to provide override control of certain model parameters specified in the input files. The latter facility is useful for running the model in Monte Carlo mode from a batch file as it avoids the need for multiple input file versions. Command line options implemented to date are given in Table 14 below:

Table 14: Command line options for LISFLOOD-FP.

Option	Description
-v	Verbose mode. With <code>-v</code> turned on the model generates a number of runtime diagnostic

Option	Description
	messages.
-version	With parameter file name omitted this option allows the user to check the version number of the executable.
-gzip	Causes model output files to be compressed on the fly. Note: this option issues a system command to run <code>gzip</code> at each <code>saveint</code> . Linux only option, ignored in windows. It assumes you have <code>gzip</code> installed. If not it generates an error but otherwise files are created ok, just not compressed.
-dir dirname	Gives the directory name for results files. Overrides the name given after the keyword <code>dirroot</code> in the <code>.par</code> file.
-resroot	Root for naming of results files (e.g. <code>root.op</code> , <code>root.mass</code> , <code>root-0001.wd</code> etc)
-simtime value	Allows the simulation time to be specified in the command line followed by a value for the simulation time in seconds. Overrides the value given after the keyword <code>sim_time</code> in the <code>.par</code> file.
-nch value	Implements a spatially uniform channel friction for all channel segments with a value given in terms of Manning's n . Overrides the value given in the <code>.river</code> file.
-nfp value	Implements a spatially uniform floodplain friction with a value given in terms of Manning's n . Overrides the value given after the keyword <code>fpfric</code> in the <code>.par</code> file or the values given in the <code>.n.ascii</code> file.
-inf value	Implements a spatially uniform infiltration loss across the whole floodplain with a value given in ms^{-1} . Overrides the value given after the keyword <code>infiltration</code> in the <code>.par</code> file.
-weir filename	Gives the name of the <code>.weir</code> file. Overrides the name given after the keyword <code>weirfile</code> in the <code>.par</code> file.
-checkpoint	Turns checkpointing on with default features. Code is checkpointed every hour of computational time by default using the output file naming convention specified in the <code>.par</code> file after the keyword <code>resroot</code> . See Section 3.2.1. If specified, the interval given after the keyword <code>checkpoint</code> in the <code>.par</code> file is used. Although this would also switch on checkpointing anyway making the use of this command line option unnecessary.
-loadcheck filename	Forces program to read in an alternative checkpoint filename at start. Useful for when you don't want the start checkpoint file overwritten by the program as it goes along. Also turns checkpointing on with default features (as option <code>-checkpoint</code>). If specified, the interval given after the keyword <code>checkpoint</code> in the <code>.par</code> file is used.
-log	Redirects screen output to a log file in the results directory.
-debug	Outputs 3 files; the final dem after burning in the channel and bank mods (*.dem), the channel mask (*.chmask) and the channel segment mask (*.segmask).
-dynsw	Implements the full dynamic wave steady state initial solution for the 1D diffusive channel solver
-dhlin value	Overwrites the linearization threshold value for the adaptive version which is currently set as Δx times 0.0002 from Cunge et al., 1980 and Hunter et al., 2005.
-kill value	Forces the model to exit after a given length of computation time (in hours) which is useful on clusters which put limits on maximum run time.
-acceleration	Switch to use acceleration version of the 2D solver
-cfl	Reset CFL value on the command line for acceleration, Roe and Subgrid version. Overrides the value given in the <code>.par</code> file. Default value is 0.7.
-theta	Reset theta value on the command line for acceleration version. Overrides the value given in the <code>.par</code> file. Default value is 1.
-steady	Turn on steady state checking. Simulation will automatically end when steady state is reached – as default this is when Q_{out} matches Q_{in} to within $0.0005 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
-steadytol	As above but with a user specified tolerance for the difference between Q_{out} and Q_{in}

The order in which command line options are used is not important. Just remember that the parameter file is the last argument on the command line.

If the “`comp_out`” keyword specified, LISFLOOD-FP will output a time to completion estimate to the screen at every save interval. This is useful when trying to work out when the run will complete. Times are in minutes, an example is shown below.

```
T(mins): M: 500.0, C: 5.3, M/C: 94.94, ETot: 17.6, EFin: 12.3
M: model time
```

C: computer time (real world minutes spent processing)

M/C: Time ratio (In this case, 100model minutes are processed for every real world minute)

ETot: Estimated total time for run

EFin: Estimated time to completion of current run.

In verbose mode the diagnostic messages are mostly self-explanatory. The exception is:

```
Smoothing bank cells with tolerance
      htol
```

Where `htol` is a numeric value in metres. This refers to the operation of the `SmoothBanks` subroutine which corrects a potential source of model instability. This subroutine searches through the floodplain elevations in cells adjacent to the channel and identifies areas of low lying floodplain that are within a certain vertical tolerance (`htol`) of the interpolated channel bed elevation at that point. If found the elevation of the relevant floodplain cells are raised to the sum of the bed elevation and `htol`. For the Buscot example, `htol` is set to the default value of 1 m. The user can override the default value by using the `htol` parameter in the `.par` file.

By default the model will use all shared memory cores available on the host machine. This is done by creating parallel threads using a method known as OpenMP (Neal et al., 2009). The number of cores has no effect on the simulation results except that the model tends to run faster on more cores. To manually set the number of cores you will need to set the operating system environment variable `OMP_NUM_THREADS` to the number of cores you want to use.

5.1 Checkpointing

LISFLOOD-FP has a very useful checkpointing facility. This allows it to write out a file containing the current state of the model. This file is repeatedly overwritten at a default or user defined computation time interval. If the program crashes or is killed during the run, this allows the run to restart from when the last checkpoint write occurred rather than from the beginning again. This facility is turned on by using the `checkpoint` option in the parameter file. The default interval is 1 hour computation time. If the user requires a different interval, this number (in hours) should be placed after the `checkpoint` keyword.

There is also a `-checkpoint` command line option, although this does not allow the user to specify an interval on the command line and uses the default 1 hour. Note, if an interval is specified using the `checkpoint` option in the parameter file, this will be used. However, this makes the use of the command line `-checkpoint` option superfluous anyway!

If checkpointing is on, then when the model starts it automatically looks for the default file named `"resroot".chkpnt` in the directory from which the model was executed. If it finds the file, it will assume that it is from a previous partial run and attempt to read it in and then restart from that point. If it does not find the file it will assume that this is a fresh run and create the file. If you do not want to restart the run from the checkpoint, just delete the `*.chkpnt` file.

It is also possible to start the checkpointing from an alternative filename, which does not then get overwritten by the checkpoint facility. You do this by using the command line option `-loadcheck "filename"` or the `loadcheck "filename"` option in the parameter file. Note, if there is a default named checkpoint file existing when LISFLOOD-FP starts, it will assume that this is newer (i.e. later on in the run) than the alternative starting point and load this to start the run. Just delete the default checkpoint file if you want to start again from your alternative starting checkpoint file. The `loadcheck` option switches on the checkpointing by default, so there is no need to also specify this at the same time, unless you want to dictate a user defined interval.

The checkpointing facility writes a copy of all important variables to a binary file. This saves space compared to an ascii file and maintains model precision. However, it does mean you may not be able to use the checkpoint file on a different machine (e.g. Linux then Windows). LISFLOOD-FP may well crash if the new machine uses a different binary convention (known as little or big endian). You may also experience a crash if you change some of the run parameters and expect LISFLOOD-FP to restart from a checkpoint file written with different parameters. LISFLOOD-FP does do some basic parameter checks when reading in a checkpoint file, such as domain size, but mostly assumes the basic parameters don't change. Importantly, if the LISFLOOD-FP version number or checkpoint version number has changed since the checkpoint file was created, the code will issue a warning and exit. This is to prevent problems of forward and backward compatibility.

A checkpoint is made at the end of the simulation as well as during it - this makes it possible to, for example, run the model in steady state for a period, and then run multiple different hydrographs from that point - the new hydrograph should include the period of steady state in the timings.

Important Note: after a checkpoint restart, the output written to the mass file is appended to the file rather than overwriting the previous lines. A checkpoint break line is added before the new lines are written, and this will let you see where it started up again, but leads to a discontinuous mass record. You can manually edit the mass file after the run to remove the overlap if you want the data continuous. The stage output file behaves in a similar fashion. Numbered results files continue to be output at the correct time.

5.2 Output file formats

During a simulation the model produces a series of results files named according to the `resroot` convention given in the parameter file. These are placed in the `dirroot` directory if this keyword and a directory name are placed in the parameter file. The output files are produced at different time intervals according to specifications made by the user in the parameter file and are described below.

5.2.1 Mass balance output file (*.mass*)

This file gives details of the model mass balance performance and is written at the interval specified by the keyword `massint` in the parameter file. There is currently no keyword to suppress the output of these files. The output consists of 11 columns of data, space separated:

Column 1: Time. The time in seconds at which the data was saved.

Column 2: Tstep. Time step specified by the user (initial time step in the adaptive model) in seconds

Column 3: MinTstep. Minimum time step used so far during the simulation in seconds

Column 4: NumTsteps. Number of time steps since the start of the simulation.

Column 5: Area. Area inundated in m^2 .

Column 6: Vol. Volume of water in the domain in m^3 .

Column 7: Qin. Inflow discharge in m^3s^{-1} .

Column 8: Hds. Water depth at the downstream exit of the model domain in meters.

Column 9: Qout. Calculated outflow discharge at the downstream exit of the model domain in m^3s^{-1} .

Column 10: Qerror. Volume error per second in m^3s^{-1} .

Column 11: Verror. Volume error per mass interval (`massint` variable in the parameter file) m^3 .

Column 12: Rain-Inf+Evap. Cumulative effect of infiltration, evaporation and rainfall over the simulation in 10^3 m^3 .

5.2.2 Water depths and elevations at time of satellite overpass (*.op* and *.opelev*)

These files consist of a grid of water depths or water surface elevations (in meters) in ARC ascii raster format for each pixel at the time of each satellite overpass specified using the parameter file keyword `overpass`, or `overpassfile` for multiple outputs (see section 3.2.15). Multiple overpass filenames will take the format of `*-xxxx-T.op` or `*-xxxx-T.opelev`, where `*`

denotes the `resroot` given in the parameter file, and x is the x^{th} overpass time given in the `overpassfile`. Numbering of overpass times commences at zero.

5.2.3 Channel water surface profile (*.profile*)

These files give the channel water surface profile at each `saveint` or overpass time. This is a text file consisting of eleven columns of data for each channel segment:

Column 1: ChanX – channel segment X location
 Column 2: ChanY – channel segment Y location
 Column 3: Chainage - distance along the channel thalweg from the upstream boundary in metres.
 Column 4: Width – channel width in meters
 Column 5: Manning's – channel manning's
 Column 6: Slope – channel slope
 Column 7: BankZ – Bank elevation in meters
 Column 8: BedElev – bed elevation in meters
 Column 9: WaterElev – water elevation in meters
 Column 10: WaterDepth – water depth in meters
 Column 11: Flow – flow in cumecs

Files saved at each `saveint` have the filename format `*-riverY-xxxx.profile`, where `*` denotes the `resroot` given in the parameter file, `Y` denotes the river number (which will be 0 unless multiple river catchments have been specified using the keyword `multiriverfile` in the `.par` file) and `X` is the sequential output file number (0000, 0001, 0002 etc.). Files related to a single overpass time are named `*-riverY-.profile` and multiple overpass filenames will take the format of `*-riverY-xxxx-T.profile`, where `X` is the X^{th} overpass time given in the `overpassfile`. Numbering of overpass times commences at zero. These files are not produced as default and are only output if the keyword `profiles` appears in the `.par` file.

5.2.4 Synoptic water depth, water surface elevation files (*-xxxx.wd*, *-xxxx.elev* and *-xxxx.wdfp*)

These files consist of a grid of water depths and water surface elevations values in ARC ascii raster format for each pixel at each save interval (`saveint`) specified in the parameter file. Units are in metres. In this naming convention `xxxx` is the `saveint` number. `-xxxx.wdfp` files are only produced when using the subgrid channel solver and represent floodplain only water depths (i.e. in cells containing a subgrid channel this is the depth of water above bankfull depth). By default these output options are turned on but production of each set of files can be suppressed by putting the logical keywords `depthoff` or `elevoff` in the `.par` file.

5.2.5 Maximum water surface elevation file (*.mxse*) and maximum water depth (*.max*)

These files consist of a grid in ARC ascii raster format of the maximum water surface elevation (`.mxse`) predicted by the model for each pixel over the course of the simulation, or the maximum water depth (`.max`). Units are in metres. By default these values are the maximum values over the whole simulation (i.e. over each time step) but if the keyword `mint_hk` appears in the `.par` file then they are the values over each time step for which the `.mass` file is written to (`massint`) instead. Calculating the maximum at the mass interval rather than at every time-step will be computationally more efficient but less accurate (especially if water depths are changing rapidly relative to `massint`). There is currently no keyword to suppress the output of these files.

5.2.6 Time of initial inundation (*.inittm*), time of maximum depth (*.maxtm*) and total time of inundation (*.totaltm*)

These files consist of a grid in ARC ascii raster format of the time of initial inundation for each pixel (`.inittm`), the time of maximum inundation depth in each pixel (`.maxtm`) or the total time for which a pixel is inundated (`.totaltm`). Units are in **hours** from the start of the simulation. By default these values are the maximum values over the whole simulation (i.e. over each time step) but if the keyword `mint_hk` appears in the `.par` file then they are the values over each

time step for which the `.mass` file is written to (`massint`) instead. There is currently no keyword to suppress the output of these files.

5.2.7 **Discharge and velocity values** (`-xxxx.Qx`, `-xxxx.Qy`, `-xxxx.Qcx`, `-xxxx.Qcy`, `-xxxx.Vx` `-xxxx.Vy`, `-xxxx.SGCVx` and `-xxxx.SGCVy`)

These files consist of a grid in ARC ascii raster format of the discharge and velocity values at the cell interfaces in the x and y Cartesian directions. Grids are output at each save interval (`saveint`) specified in the parameter file and `xxxx` is the `saveint` number. The grids represent discharge and velocity at the cell interfaces, so for values in the x direction there is an extra column in the output, while in the y direction there is an extra row relative to the DEM raster. Discharge units are in cubic meters per second, while velocity is in meters per second. If subgrid channels are used in the simulation then three additional files are produced: `-xxxx.Qcx` and `-xxxx.Qcy` (the subgrid channel discharge values in those cells where a channel is present) and `*.Fwidth` (the width of flow in the subgrid channel in those cells where a channel is present), `-xxxx.SGCVx` and `-xxxx.SGCVy` are the associated flow velocities.. By default these files are not produced and are only output if the keywords `qoutput` and `voutput` appear in the `.par` file.

5.2.8 **Hazard output files** (`.maxVx`, `.maxVy`, `.maxVc`, `.maxVcd` and `.maxHaz`)

These files each consist of a grid in ARC ascii raster format containing the value for each cell for the corresponding variable. By default these files are not produced and are only output if the keyword `hazard` appears in the `.par` file.

The `.maxVx` and `.maxVy` files contain the maximum values over the simulation for water velocity in the x and y Cartesian directions (see `vx` and `.vy` files described above). The `.maxVc` files contain the maximum values over the simulation for cell velocity which combines velocities at the cell interfaces in the x and y Cartesian directions. It is calculated as

$$V_{c_{ij}} = ([\max(V_{i-1/2,j}, V_{i+1/2,j})]^2 + [\max(V_{i,j-1/2}, V_{i,j+1/2})]^2)^{(0.5)} \quad (3)$$

where $V_{c_{ij}}$ is the cell velocity and the $\frac{1}{2}$ notation denotes a value at a cell interface. The `.maxVcd` file gives the value of the water depth in each cell at the time of maximum cell water velocity. Finally, the `.maxHaz` file gives the maximum value for the hazard variable over the simulation. The hazard variable is an estimation of the combined hazard posed by water velocities and depth and is calculated as

$$Haz = H * (Vc + 1.5) \quad (4)$$

Where H is water depth and Vc is the cell velocity (as see section 6.2.8 above), based on DEFRA 2003.

By default the maximum values for all of these files are calculated over the whole simulation (i.e. over each time step) but if the keyword `mint_hk` appears in the `.par` file then they are the values over each time step for which the `.mass` file is written to (`massint`) instead.

5.2.9 **Adaptive time step and flow limiter** (`-xxxx.QLx` and `-xxxx.QLy`) values

These files consist of a grid in ARC ascii raster format of the flow limiter values in the x and y Cartesian directions. Grids are output at each save interval (`saveint`) specified in the parameter

file and `xxxx` is the `saveint` number. By default these files are not produced and are only output if the keyword `qloutput` appears in the `.par` file.

5.2.10 **Stage values (*.stage*)**

Text file consisting of water depth data for each stage specified in the `stagefile` at each time specified by `massint`. Also contains location information and bed elevation for stages. By default these files are not produced and are only output if the keyword `stagefile` appears in the `.par` file followed by the associated stagefile name. Units are in meters.

5.2.11 **Debugging files for interpolating channels onto the DEMfile, modified dem (**.dem*), channel mask (**.chmask*) and channel segment mask (**.segmask*).**

These files provide more information on the structure of the 1D river model after interpolation of the river vector to the 2D grid. They are in ARC ascii raster format. The modified DEM includes the channel bed elevations (in meters) in cells containing 1D rivers, `chmask` is a raster showing the location of the channels and `segmask` is an integer raster showing the tributary numbers for the channels. By default these files are not produced and are only output if the keyword `debug` appears in the `.par` file.

5.2.12 **Debugging files produced when using subgrid channels (**.dem*, **_SGC_bedZ.asc*, **_SGC_bfdepth.asc* and **_SGC_width.asc*).**

They are grids of data in ARC ascii raster format giving the value in each cell for each parameter. Using the subgrid channel method, the dem used in the simulation (`*.dem`) is identical to the original input dem. `*_SGC_bedZ.asc` files contain the channel bed elevation in each cell containing a subgrid channel, whilst `*_SGC_width.asc` contains details of the channel width for each of these cells. The file `*_SGC_bfdepth.asc` gives details of the calculated bankfull depths for each cell containing a subgrid channel. These are calculated as dem elevation minus channel bed elevation if the bed elevation is known, otherwise it is calculated using the specified channel width, the dem and details provided in the channel parameter file (`.pram`). By default these files are not produced and are only output if the keyword `debug` appears in the `.par` file. Units are in meters.

5.2.13 **Discharge file (**.discharge*)**

Text file consisting of discharge data for each gauge specified in the `gaugefile` at each time specified by `massint`. Column one is the time while all subsequent columns are discharges across sections. Note that these values do not include water in 1D channels, i.e. values represent floodplain flow only except if subgrid channels are used in which case it is the total of the floodplain and subgrid channel flow. By default these files are not produced and are only output if the keyword `gaugefile` appears in the `.par` file followed by the associated gaugefile name. Units are in cubic meters per second.

5.3 Visualising model results

Visualisation and interrogation of results files and other output files is important not just for data analysis and presentation, but also good way to check the model is acting as you expect and that there are no errors in the input files. As all of the output files (and input files) are simple, space character delimited text files they can be opened by or imported into a range of programs from your favourite text editor to more sophisticated software packages. Below are suggestions of some programs which have been used in the past.

Water depth results files (`.wd`) can be viewed as an animation in `FloodView.exe`, which is bundled with the model and data files (windows only). Double-click the `FloodView` icon to open the program and load results files using `File>Open` (use the `ctrl` button to load multiple `.wd` files for animation). DEM files can be added to the animation using `File>Load DEM`. These

options will work using other results files and filename extensions, however, FloodView expects files to be in ARC ascii raster format and the colour-scale for animations is set for the typical expected range of water depth values. FloodView is also fairly temperamental and usually likes things to be done in above order only.

All gridded output data from the model is in ARC ascii raster format and can be easily uploaded for visualisation and analysis in ARC-GIS software (note – file extensions will need to be changed to .asc). Alternatively, gridded or tabulated data files are often uploaded for quick visualisation or graphing into Excel using File>Open, selecting “All Files *.*” and a suitable delimiter. For more sophisticated data manipulation or visualisation files could be imported into MatLab. Some code has been written to facilitate quick import of LISFLOOD output files into MatLab and can be found at https://source.ggy.bris.ac.uk/wiki/LISFLOOD-FP_and_MATLAB.

6 Appendix

6.1 Weir calculations

In order to correctly represent embankments, weirs and structures the linkage between two given cells may be represented by a weir flow equation rather than the Manning formulae as shown in equation 5 below:

$$Q = CL(2gH)^{1.5} \quad (5)$$

where C is the Weir flow Coefficient (default value 1.4), L is weir breadth across channel and H is the energy head upstream of the weir.

Weir limitations and notes:

- Note that currently the weir calc in lisflood uses the water depth rather than energy head (thus ignoring approach velocity). This is a reasonable approximation for low Fr number hydraulics. However, you should find it reasonably easy to add the velocity/energy head if this was important to your model.
- The flow across the cell boundary is totally controlled by the weir calculation within the subgrid channel. There is no floodplain component. This can lead to localised instabilities around the weir if there are no cells around the weir cell that can carry bypass flow. This arises as flow may be out of subgrid bank upstream of the weir (and hence on the floodplain) and then at the weir is force back in the channel and over the weir. We recommend placing a stage output location upstream and downstream of the weir in order to check for this if the weir is critical. The code could be changed to allow for the out of bank flow and this should be straightforward if you wish to do this for your model.
- If in doubt build a simple test model of your bridge and ensure you understand how it is represented and behaving in lisflood-fp. See the testing directory 16 for examples of bridge testing setups.
- The drowned out weir uses a slightly modified form of the weir flow equation, but this has not been tested fully and we suspect the modular limit implementation is wrong.

6.2 Bridge calculations

Bridges can also be represented explicitly (since version 5.6.5). The aim with the lisflood-fp implementation of bridges is to allow the hydraulic effects of a bridge (abutments/deck etc.) to be represented realistically with a few simple parameters. It should be noted here that it is NOT intended as an engineering tool for detailed modelling of bridge hydraulics. Hydraulic modelling of bridges can be a complicated subject in itself and a tool such as HEC-RAS may be a more appropriate choice for such purposes. Currently bridges have only been implemented in the

subgrid channel version. However if you wished to extend the bridge functionality to normal floodplain flow cells it should be fairly straightforward. Extension of bridges to the 1D diffusive solver would be more of a challenge.

The bridge modelling method used is the pressure flow method which implements an orifice flow equation (equation 6) to calculate the flow through the bridge when the bridge deck obstructs flow:

$$Q = C_d A (2gH)^{0.5} \quad (6)$$

where C_d is the Coefficient of discharge for a fully submerged pressure flow (default value 0.8), A is net area of bridge opening and H is the difference between the energy gradient elevation upstream and the water surface elevation downstream. This is a widely used method for modelling bridges and is the default bridge modelling method used in HEC-RAS (against which the LISFLOOD-FP implementation has been tested).

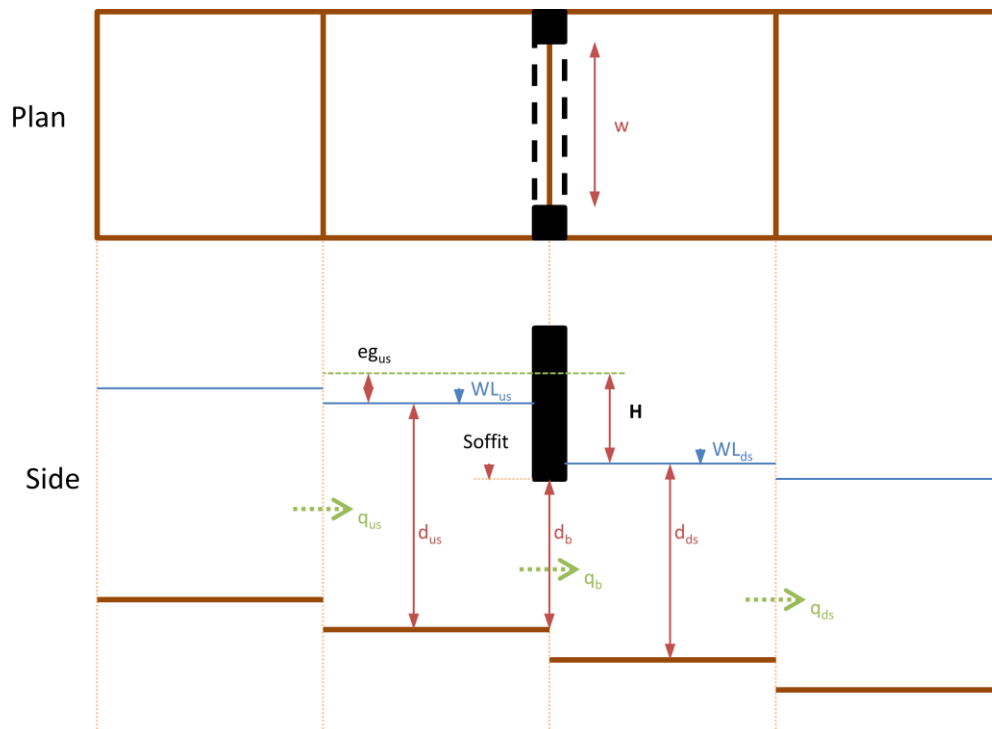


Figure 1: Bridge as implemented in lisflood-fp.

- W = bridge opening width
- d_b = bridge opening depth
- $d_{us,ds}$ = upstream, downstream depth of flow
- eg_{us} = upstream energy grade depth ($V_{us}^2/2g$). Bridge approach velocity V_{us} is calculated from q_{us} divided by channel area (not bridge area)
- q_b = bridge flow
- $q_{us,ds}$ = upstream, downstream flow
- $WL_{us,ds}$ = upstream, downstream water level
- A = bridge open area ($W \times d_b$)
- H = orifice head ($WL_{us} - WL_{ds} + eg_{us}$)
- Zr = upstream depth to opening ratio (d_{us}/d_b). $Zr = 1.0$ when water level is at soffit level.

The actual calculation used by LISFLOOD-FP at a bridge location will depend upon the water level at the bridge. For water levels below the bridge soffit ($Zr < 1.0$), the normal open channel flow method is used (using the bridge opening flow area not the channel area). For water levels well above the soffit, the orifice calculation is used. There is a transition zone between the two types of flow (roughly between Zr 1.0 and 1.5) where a weighted combination of the two flow types is

used. This transition zone is notoriously difficult to model for various reasons (see Hecras manual). The approach used here is simple and robust and in tests compares well with the HEC-RAS sluice approach for this transition zone. Typically for a bridge Z_r should be specified in lisflood as 1.5. If the hydraulics approaching/at the bridge are particularly extreme (e.g. $Fr > 0.75$) you may find extending this to a higher value e.g. 1.7) may provide extra stability at the expense of accuracy.

Bridge limitations and notes:

- For more irregular bridges it is up to the user to distil the geometry to an appropriate simple representation that can be used in LISFLOOD-FP. For example, if a bridge has piers you can subtract the pier area from the bridge opening area and put the net area into LISFLOOD-FP.
- While a bridge is placed between two cells, in reality, a bridge must be placed in the centre of 4 contiguous cells. This is because the calculation uses the flow fluxes at the boundaries of cells 1 and 2 and cells 3 and 4 in order to calculate approach velocities and hence energy grade. It is also a good idea to ensure that the 4 cells are not part of some other process such as a boundary or confluence etc.
- If in doubt build a simple test model of your bridge and ensure you understand how it is represented and behaving in LISFLOOD-FP. See the testing directory 16 for examples of bridge testing setups.
- LISFLOOD-FP does not take into account contraction and expansion losses before and after the bridge. This means that if your bridge width is significantly less than that of the channel, then the head (afflux) upstream of the bridge constriction will be underestimated. This does not affect the pressure flow calculation, only the open channel flow calculation when water elevations are below the bridge deck.
- There is currently no provision for overtopping of the bridge deck when water elevations upstream are very high. You can easily extend the LISFLOOD-FP bridge code using the weir equation for this case if you require this functionality for your model.

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